MARVEL® COMICS

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DOMINO™

-PERRIN-1996 & CANDELARIO-

X-FORCE'S MOST MYSTERIOUS MEMBER -- IN HER 1ST SOLO ADVENTURE!

X-MEN JAN '97 1

SOMEWHERE BENEATH A REMOTE PART OF THE UNITED STATES...

RAMSES THE SECOND...

Dante's Inferno

ALEXANDER THE GREAT...

JULIUS CAESAR...

NAPOLEON BONAPARTE...

OTTO VON BISMARCK...

SULEIMAN THE MAGNIFICENT...

ADOLF HITLER...

BENITO MUSSOLINI...

EMPEROR HIROHITO...

JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY...

NIKITA KHRUSHCHEV...

ERIK MAGNUS LEHNSHERR...

CHARLES FRANCIS XAVIER...

ONSLAUGHT.

IF THE PAST TEACHES THE *FUTURE* ANYTHING, IT IS THIS:

THE TRAGIC NATURE OF ALL *EMPIRES* --

-- HOWEVER GREAT OR SMALL --

-- IS TO *RISE*...

TAP TAP

TAP TAP TAP TAP

TAP TAP TAP TAP

... AND *FALL*.

REMEMBER THAT LITTLE HISTORY LESSON, *GYRICH.*

IT MIGHT SAVE YOUR PAPER-TYRANT CAREER SOMEDAY.

AND YOU HAD BETTER REMEMBER WHO'S KEEPING YOUR SORRY BUTT ALIVE, *THURMAN.*

YOU SHOULD HAVE *WARNED* US.

THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE HERE FOR.

YOU'RE A HUMAN EARLY WARNING SYSTEM...

... AND DON'T YOU *FORGET* IT!

AND HERE I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST *SWEET* ON ME...

AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, YOU'RE A BIGGER WASTE OF TAXPAYER'S MONEY THAN *CHELSEA CLINTON'S BRACES!*

SO NEXT TIME THAT *HYPER-DEVELOPED BRAIN* OF YOURS TRACKS A CRUCIAL JUNCTURE IN THE SHIFTING *PARANORMAL BALANCE OF POWER* --

-- YOU REPORT IT TO ME *IMMEDIATELY* --

-- OR YOU GET *CUT LOOSE.*

CLEAR?

CRYSTAL.

-- PERSONALLY.

LOOKIN' FORWARD TO SEEIN' YOU TRY, *H.P.* --

-- YOU REDHEADED, PENCIL-NECK *GEEK...*

OH, WELL -- ONCE MORE UNTO THE *"INFERNO"...*

PITY.

I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO PUTTING A MONGREL LIKE YOU *DOWN* --

"I WAS A SOUL AMONG THE SOULS OF LIMBO, WHEN A LADY SO BLESSED AND SO BEAUTIFUL --

"-- I PRAYED HER TO ORDER AND COMMAND MY WILL, CALLED TO ME --"

MILO THURMAN?

"-- BEATRICE..?"

SCHRRIIPP

STAN LEE PRESENTS: X-FORCE'S LUCKY LADY IN: RISE AND FALL

CARNAVAL -- IN RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL...

... WHERE A YOUNG WOMAN TOO OFTEN KNOWN FOR BEING WOUND TOO TIGHT...

... IS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF AN OPPORTUNITY TO FINALLY **LOOSEN UP.**

HER NAME -- FOR NOW -- IS **DOMINO**

AND SHE'S HAVING THE TIME OF HER LIFE.

♪ OH AY OH AY! ♪

♪ OH AY OH AAAH! ♪

IF *CABLE* COULD ONLY SEE ME NOW...

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... HE'D PROBABLY HAVE A HISSY FIT ABOUT ME LETTING MY GUARD DOWN!

BUT IT'S BEEN A DOG'S AGE SINCE THE LAST TIME I PUT LIFE ***BEHIND*** ME --

-- SURRENDERED MYSELF TO DRINKING, DANCING --

DRINK

-- AND SCANTILY-CLAD MEN DROOLING OVER MY BAD SELF AS FAR AS THE EYE COULD SEE!

Mmmmm Mmmmmm Mmmm!

IF THERE'S ONE THING I ***LOOOVE*** ABOUT CARNAVAL, IT'S ALL THOSE GORGEOUS, GYRATING --

-- ***MIDGETS?***

<DANCE WITH ME, MISTRESS! DANCE WITH ME!>⊗

⊗ TRANSLATED FROM THE PORTUGUESE -- BRAZILIAN BERNARDO.

<SORRY, LITTLE MAN -- THIS DIVA'S TAKIN' A POWDER FROM THE PARTY.>

<OH, BUT I INSIST THAT YOU ALLOW ME THE NEXT TWIRL, MISTRESS.>

<I PROMISE YOU -->

SKRZZ KRAK

-- WE WILL HAVE A MOST *ELECTRIFYING* TIME!

ENERGY WHIPS?

CRIPES, THIS VACATION JUST TOOK A TURN FOR THE *WEIRD!*

GIVE IT UP, DOMINO!

LOVERBOY CABLE AIN'T COMIN' T'YER RESCUE *THIS* TIME, SWEET THING.

SHZZ KRAK

THIS TIME --

-- YOU'RE ALL *MINE!*

SKA

Huh?! WHERE'D SHE GO?

NOW, UNLESS THE MUNCHKIN DOWN THERE'S GOT *STILTS* FOR FEET --

-- I DON'T BELIEVE THIS...

MY NEW BOSS DON'T WANT GRIEF FROM YOU *X-DWEEBS* --

-- SO I'M GONNA MAKE SURE HE DON'T GET NONE!

THAT VOICE -- SO COLD, SO *HOLLOW* --

-- BUT SO *FAMILIAR.*

BETTER PUT SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN ME AND THIS JOKER -- *STAT!*

CLOWNIE PLAYED HIS HAND TOO SOON.

IF HE KNOWS *THE X-MEN*, THEN ODDS'RE GOOD --

-- THAT *I* KNOW HIM!

HOLEE --!

Pico?!

IN THE FLESH -- AND THE ***CYBERNETICS!***

I BET YOU AND YER BOYFRIEND YUKKED IT UP AFTER MY *"UNTIMELY DEMISE"* --

-- WHEN HE LEFT ME BREATHIN' OUT THE BACK OF MY HEAD AFTER RESCUIN' YER SORRY BUTT!®

WELL, I GOT NEWS F'R YA, SPOT.

I'M BACK FROM THE ***DEAD*** --

-- AND TWICE AS ***NASTY!***

MISS ME?

X-FORCE 14
--MUTANT MARK

"MISS" YOU? YEAH, RIGHT.

'BOUT AS MUCH AS A *HOLE* IN THE HEAD!

KRAK

Oh, I'M SORRY --

-- DID I HIT A *NERVE?*

LIKE I DIDN'T GET *USED* TO YER LIP --

-- WHEN YOU WERE DECORATIN' *TOLLIVER'S* BASEMENT WALL!

LOOKS LIKE YER OUT OF ROOFS -- AND *LUCK!*

MAYBE... BUT WOULDN'T YA KNOW IT --?

I'M *STILL* FULL OF *SURPRISES!*

EAT *SHURIKEN,* SHORT-STACK!

THIP

THIP

AIN'T THAT A COINKYDINK --?

I'VE GOT SOME SURPRISES MYSELF!

BZZAP

BZZAP

OKAY, SO MINI-MORON'S *"BEEN-THERE-DONE-THAT"* WITH DEATH --

-- BUT WHO THE HECK HELPED HIM GET OVER IT?

WHOEVER IT WAS --

-- THEY'RE NO STRANGERS TO CUTTING EDGE CYBERNETICS!

WHAT WAS THAT ***STUPID MANTRA*** CABLE POUNDED INTO OUR SKULLS DURING OUR ***SIX PACK*** DAYS?

*"HI-TECH **PROBLEMS** --*

*"-- REQUIRE LOW-TECH **SOLUTIONS.**"*

END OF THE *LINE*, DOMI-NOBODY!

BET YOUR STUMPY BONES IT IS, GEEK-O --

-- AND GUESS WHO'S ON THE *WRONG* END...

BETTER SING PRETTY AND BETTER SING FAST, PICO.

CUZ THE MORE YOU CUT INTO MY *DOWNTIME*--

--THE MORE *BODY PARTS* I'M GONNA USE THOSE FUNKY *TICKLERS* TO CUT OFF!

D-DOMINO, B-BABY, S-SWEET-HEART--

--I W-WAS JUST P-PLAYIN' WITH Y-YOU!

THAT'S NOT MY IDEA OF FUN 'N' GAMES.

NOW, UNLESS YOU START SQUEALIN' LIKE THE LITTLE PIG YOU ARE--

--YOUR BOSS IS GONNA BE IN THE MARKET FOR A NEW ASSASSIN! WHO SENT YOU?!

I-I CAN'T TELL YA -- HE'LL K-KILL ME!

I-I DON'T WANNA D-DIE *AGAIN!*

PUNKS LIKE THAT SURE GIVE US "*VERTICALLY CHALLENGED*" FOLKS A BAD NAME, Eh?

YOU?!?

MEANWHILE...

THE WAY I SEE IT...

... WITH THE *AVENGERS* AND THE *FANTASTIC FOUR* GONE --

-- NATIONAL SECURITY HAS NEVER BEEN IN GREATER *JEOPARDY.*

ANY *INDUSTRIOUS* VILLAIN WITH HALF A BRAIN WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE HEROES' ABSENCE.

ESPECIALLY IF HE HAD THE *PROPER RESOURCES* AT HIS DISPOSAL...

HALT! COMMENCING GENETIC EXAMINATION.

CONFIRMING DNA NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCES FOR GYRICH, HENRY PETER.

FUNNY THING ABOUT "*RESOURCES*"...

... IT'S NOT *WHERE* OR *HOW* YOU GET THEM THAT MATTERS.

IT'S JUST A QUESTION OF *POSSESSION.*

AND IN THIS GREAT COUNTRY OF OURS, POSSESSION IS *NINE-TENTHS* OF THE --

-- *EMPTY?*

WHAT IN THE SAM HILL IS GOING ON HERE?!

COMPUTER -- WHERE THE @$%&! IS THURMAN??

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DR. MILO THURMAN IS IN CONTAINMENT CELL DELTA-THIRTEEN.

STUPID @*!?* MACHINE!

THIS *IS* CONTAINMENT CELL DELTA THIRTEEN!

COMPUTER -- WHO GAVE THE ORDER TO ***DEACTIVATE*** THE SECURITY GRID IN CONTAINMENT CELL DELTA-THIRTEEN?

DEACTIVATION COMMAND LOGGED IN BY AUTHORIZATION CODE **ALPHA... IOTA...MU...**

...DESIGNATE: **GYRICH, HENRY PETER.**

WHAT?

WE HAVE AN ***INTRUDER!*** SECURITY... ALL STATIONS ON RED ALERT!

BRAZIL.

WELL, WIPE MY SPOT AND CALL ME *SWARTHY* --

-- IF IT ISN'T MY FAVORITE SAWED-OFF DRINKING BUDDY!

LONG TIME NO SEE, *EUGENE*...

AS FAR AS BRAZILIAN CUSTOMS IS CONCERNED -- THE NAME'S *"BELMONT"*.

BUT YOU, MA *BELLE FEMME FATALE* --

-- CAN *ALWAYS* CALL ME *PUCK!*

WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU DOING *HERE*, GENO?

C'MON NOW, *NEENA* -- IF I *TOLD* YA --

-- Y'KNOW I'D HAVETA *KILL* YA.

SHADOW OPS "*RULE OF THUMB*" NUMBER ONE.

Oh, BY THE WAY -- IT'S ***BEATRICE*** THESE DAYS.

"*BEATRICE*"? WHERE'D YOU PICK *THAT* ONE UP?

FROM THE "*ONE THAT GOT AWAY.*"

ANYWAY... THIS ISN'T A SOCIAL CALL -- IS IT?

'FRAID NOT.

POKED MY NOSE INTA ***DEPARTMENT H*** AFFAIRS I PROBABLY SHOULDN'T HAVE...

... AND FOUND *THIS*.

RECOGNIZE 'IM?

M-MILO?

WH-WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM? WHAT'S WRONG?

JEEZ, GIRL. I'VE NEVER SEEN YA ***SPOOKED*** LIKE THIS.

WHO' THE "*RASTAFARI*"?

Aww, HE'S *NOBODY*, JUDD --

-- JUST THE "*ONE THAT GOT AWAY*"...

TRY NOT TO LAUGH YOURSELF TO DEATH-- BUT ONCE UPON A TIME...

... Dr. MILO THURMAN WAS *MY WORLD.*

I'M TALKIN' *LOVE*--WITH A CAPITAL "L".

NOTHIN' FUNNY 'BOUT THAT, KIDDO.

YA GOT A HEART AS *BIG* AS THE MOON--

--YER JUST *AFRAID* T'SHOW IT.

AND WHILE I HATE *T'BREAK* THAT HEART --

-- YA SHOULD KNOW SOMETHIN' FISHY'S GOIN' DOWN *DEEP* INSIDE THE DEPARTMENT--

--AND YER BUDDY'S DUE F'R A STREAK OF SERIOUSLY ***BAD LUCK...*** *SOON.*

MEANING?

TERMINATION.

Uh Uh, FRIEND.

HIS LUCK'S ABOUT TO ***CHANGE...***

THE DESERT...

...WHERE THE COVER OF NIGHT BLANKETS THE DESOLATE LAND...

...A LONE COYOTE BAYS WOEFULLY AT THE WAXING MOON...

...AND A NIGH-IMPOSSIBLE INFILTRATION MISSION BEGINS!

THREE GUARDS, Huh?

THEY'VE SURE BEEFED UP SECURITY--

--SINCE BACK IN THE DAYS WHEN I WAS STATIONED HERE *UNDERCOVER.*

SOMETHING MUST'VE REALLY HIT THE FAN...

GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO BE *THRICE* AS QUIET.

AIN'T NO THANG FOR THIS DEADLY DIVA, THOUGH.

THESE NANCY-BOY *GOONS-FOR -HIRE--*

--ARE NEVER EVEN GONNA KNOW *WHAT* HIT 'EM...

THE GUARDS IGNORANT OF HER PRESENCE, DOMINO DESCENDS SILENTLY...

...LIKE A PREDATOR...

SHUNK

...AS IF SHE'S DONE THIS A THOUSAND TIMES BEFORE.

SHUNK

UNFORTUNATELY FOR HER UNDERPAID, OVERWORKED PREY...

SHUNK

...SHE HAS.

THIS IS *TOO WEIRD.*

NOT ONLY DID I NEVER EXPECT TO RETURN TO THIS ***HELLHOLE*** --

-- BUT I CERTAINLY NEVER THOUGHT MILO'S AND MY PATHS WOULD EVER CROSS AGAIN.

I WONDER HOW HE'S BEEN... IF HE STILL FEELS THE SAME ABOUT ME --

-- IF *WE* -- JEEZ, ***I'M*** NOT TOO NERVOUS, AM I?

FOCUS ON DECRYPTING THIS LOCK FIRST --

-- WORRY ABOUT THE FLOCK OF BUTTERFLIES IN YOUR STOMACH LATER.

Hmmm... *"M.I.A."*?

NEVER SEEN *THAT* ENCRYPTION BEFORE.

MILITARY ENTRY CODES *NEVER* CHANGE --

-- NOT UNLESS AN INSTALLATION'S BEEN COMPROMISED FROM WITHIN.

BUT WHO ELSE BESIDES UNCLE SAM KNOWS ABOUT THIS PLACE?

HALT! THIS IS A *RESTRICTED* AREA.

MANDROIDS?

ANY FURTHER TRESPASS WILL RESULT IN YOUR IMMEDIATE TERMINATION!

OKAY, OKAY -- DON'T SHOOT!

I'M JUST GONNA DROP MY HANDS...

... REACH DOWN *REEEEAL* SLOW...

AND I'M GONNA LAY MY WEAPONS DOWN ON THE FLOOR, 'KAY?

LOOK... THESE ARE MY GUNS.

NOW YOU SEE 'EM --

-- NOW YOU DON'T!

ZAM

ZAM

AS IF MY PHASERS ARE EVEN GONNA *SCRATCH* THE SURFACE OF THAT ARMOR!

'COURSE, THE RICOCHET MIGHT KILL *ME* IN THE PROCESS!

LUCKILY --

ZING

ZING

ZING

-- THINGS HAVE A HABIT OF FALLING INTO PLACE FOR ME!

GAAH!

HEY! WATCH OUT -- ARRGH!

SHAZAK

OUCH!

THAT HAD TO HURT!

HATED TO DO THAT, BOYS --

-- BUT DIDN'T YOUR MAMAS EVER TEACH YA IT'S *IMPOLITE* TO THREATEN A *LADY?*

ANYWAY... MUCH AS I'D LOVE TO STAY AND CHAT --

SMOOCH

-- I'VE GOT A ***POLITICAL PRISONER*** TO RESCUE!

THOUGH, JUDGING BY THIS CROWD --

-- THAT'S GOING TO BE EASIER SAID THAN DONE!

GOD, IT ***REEKS*** IN HERE.

I REMEMBER CABLE ONCE TOLD ME, "*YOU'VE SEEN ONE DISEMBOWELED CORPSE* --

-- *YOU'VE SEEN 'EM ALL.*"

YEAH, WELL -- AS A MERC, I SAW PLENTY --

-- AND I *STILL* GET SICK FROM THAT STENCH!

I ONLY HOPE THAT MILO HAD SENSE ENOUGH TO GET OUT OF HERE --

LEVEL 13

-- *BEFORE* SOMEONE TURNED THIS PLACE INTO A ***SLAUGHTERHOUSE!***

CLAW MARKS. Huh?

WHAT COULD BE SHARP ENOUGH TO SLASH ***TITANIUM?***

MILO..?

PHEW.

THAT'S MY GUY --

-- ALWAYS ONE STEP *AHEAD* OF TROUBLE.

YOU MUST BE LONG GONE BY NOW. RIGHT, 'LO?

Dante's Inferno

CAN'T BELIEVE YOU LEFT *THIS* BEHIND. IT'S YOUR PRIZE POSSESSION.

GOD, YOU USED TO READ THIS TO ME FOR ***HOURS*** ON END...

"... I WAS A SOUL AMONG THE SOULS OF LIMBO --

Dante's Inferno

"-- WHEN A LADY SO BLESSED AND SO BEAUTIFUL --"

AND SO... ***DEADLY!***

Eh --?

YOU!

WHERE'S MILO? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH HIM?

I HAVE DONE NOTHING TO YOUR PRECIOUS HEART--

--SAVE DELIVER HIM UNTO HIS DESTINY.

AND NOW, UPON MY HONOR AS A *WARRIOR*, SWEET DOMINO--

-- I SHALL DELIVER YOU UNTO DEATH!

SO VOWS-- LADY DEATHSTRIKE!!

NEXT ISSUE:

DOMINO VS. DEATHSTRIKE!